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THE NEW YORK STATE OUTLOOK.

A thing that puts to confusion all estimates and guesses as to the outcome of the approaching election in this state with regard to state officers is the slump that occurred two years ago in the total vote of the two great political parties for the same complement of officers, as compared with the total vote of those parties in 1900, says the New York Commercial.

That vote in 1900 amounted to 1,498,592, whereas in 1902 it amounted to only 1,321,497—a decline of 177,095, or nearly 12 per cent. The aggregate vote for the republican and democratic candidates for governor in 1902 was only a little over 15,000 more than it was as far back as 1898, although it is obvious that the number of republican and democratic voters in this state had in the meantime enormously increased, and that there must have been a still greater increase since 1902.

It is noteworthy, too, that the great bulk of these stay-at-home voters in 1902 was to be found in the up-state counties. Of the 177,095 loss in the total republican and democratic vote for governor in 1902, as compared with the similar vote in 1900, over 121,000 was due to stay-at-home voters in the counties outside of New York, Kings, Queens and Richmond. While the latter counties contributed 40 per cent of the total republican and democratic vote in 1902, they contributed only about 30 per cent of the total falling off in the vote question.

It is only natural that there should be a decline in the popular vote in "off" years, and in this state the great preponderance of the decline is usually in up-state counties in most of which many voters live miles away from the polls. Most of these counties are habitually republican, and in presidential years—at least in recent presidential years—they generally return pluralities, more or less heavy, for both the republican national and state tickets. Independent voters are found mainly in the cities.

Predictions, therefore as to the result in this state, especially on state officers, are largely worthless because little information is at hand to tell which way this unknown quantity of stay-at-home voters in 1902 may cast their ballots in November. That the mass of these voters are republican in politics is a fair assumption, and unless there is more evidence of republican dissatisfaction in up-state counties than is now manifest, the latter will probably roll up their customary pluralities for the republican national and state candidates. In this event the democratic national and state candidates will have to look chiefly to the cities for a triumph in the Empire commonwealth.

SYMPATHY WITH JAPAN.

In the war between Russia and Japan popular sympathy has been running full tide in favor of Japan. That little insular country has had all along the prestige of success, and the world applauds success.

In comparison with Russia Japan is a little nation with little men, with no empire behind it, and no history, says the Tacoma Ledger. It requires a long and checkered history in any people to develop any kind of strength, intellectual, economic or military—any kind of organized resource. Civilization in any country marks its advance in that way. It takes time—time to get territory, to get wealth, time to train the patriotic impulses of the people in the arts of war and peace. For long centuries this wonderful people, commercially speaking, were a hermit people, with their ports shut up against European trade. Civilization advances through foreign contact, mainly through commerce, and it was only half a century ago that our Commander Perry succeeded, by diplomatic maneuver, in opening the gates of the Japan sea to the fleets of the world. From that date the tremendous reserved force of the Japanese was let loose. Their progress was phenomenal.

European civilization was eagerly studied. Young men of talent and promise were sent out under government maintenance to the great universities of Germany and England, and the United States, to get the science of these old and cultured nations, and the secrets of their industries, their mechanics; their laws, their social life, and to come back equipped to reproduce all these things in their native land. These student emissaries were particularly fascinated with what they could learn in the United States. Its democratic institutions pleased

them. Our system of public schools was closely studied by them, and some of our distinguished educators were enlisted in aiding them to organize a like system in their country, with grades and normal methods and a school regime that would take all classes without restriction under its wing.

All this went on with startling rapidity and we are amazed to think how speedily all the essential features of our western civilization were shipped off to Japan.

The Japanese mind may not be creative—it is quick to see and has an appropriating capacity readier and larger than elsewhere witnessed in the world. It is said that Japan made greater progress in all that pertains to a high-grade civilization in six years than the European nations did in 600 years. The assertion is not extravagant. It is one thing to invent, and another thing to import. European nations had to invent and we know that invention follows the long and winding trail of necessity, and that necessity assumes new shapes as society becomes complex. It is the superiority of European nations that their high civilization was long in maturing, that it was the progressive evolution of years. Vast fabrics are slow in rising, and institutions are never the creatures of a day. A great German was engaged for nearly twenty years in inventing and perfecting the automatic press—a man of much less capacity may understand it and set it to work.

Nevertheless, the assimilating power of the Japanese, their amazing industry and skill in catching up and importing what the great Aryan peoples have developed through the ages, looks like a miracle to us, who are fated to go along at a slower pace through years of laborious plodding and research.

What astonishes us is the amount of brain power they are able to bring into war. Much as we do not like to think it, war brings into requisition the highest order of human brains. War gives rank to nations. War is the bloody index-finger that points the way to permanence and preeminence of civil organization and strength—where the strongest intellects and sturdiest will are entitled to hold sway. It is an awful school—may we be delivered from its hideous discipline in making our virtues known—but as a matter of history all nations have had to train in that school, and the awards of destiny have always passed through that grim schoolmaster's bloody hands. Judged by this standard, the Japanese take rank already among the foremost nations in the world.

COME OUT OF IT.

The disposition on the part of seacoast newspapers to show up their grain shipments is commendable as evincing a desire to advance the interests of the towns in question, but the papers frequently make themselves ridiculous in parading their shipping statistics. This is particularly true of the newspapers of the northwest, each of which works to outdo the other. The results are not infrequently most laughable.

The Portland Journal is one of the enthusiasts—there are three of them in Portland—and in its Tuesday issue informs its readers, in red headletter, that Portland is in the lead—that the wheat shipments from that "port" for the month of September were the largest in the United States! One would naturally suppose Portland had made a record that justified red ink and front page position, but he is woefully in error. Portland shipped less wheat during the month in question than during almost any other month of the year. The exports aggregated 113,091 bushels, one lone cargo having been sent away. San Francisco's exports totaled 67,000 bushels, the Bay City holding second place in the record for the month.

Now, there was a story in connection with the official statement of wheat exports for September. The fact that Portland should have headed the list with trifling exports of 113,091 bushels was in itself a remarkable condition of affairs, and along this line a very presentable story might have been written. But there is no cause for any elation. The record is not one of which Portland could possibly be proud, for it was unusually below the average. Rather, it was something of which Portland might well feel ashamed.

The desire to advertise the seaport is uppermost, however, and the Portland papers, as well as those of the sound, will probably continue to startle their readers with sensational headlines over articles that have little or no commercial significance.

The most accurate clock in the world is in the basement of the Berlin observatory, and has been running since 1865, when it was set up by Professor Foerster. It has often run for three months at a time with a daily deviation of not more than fifteen-thousandths of a second. But it is not accurate enough to suit astronomers, and the clock is soon to be put in an air-tight underground room.

It takes three and one-third times as long to write the Roman numerals from 1 to 100 as the Arabic, and the chance for error is twenty-one times as great. It takes three times as long to read the Roman numerals from 1 to 100 as the Arabic, and the chance for error in this is eight times as great. Yet there is a great advantage in the Roman numerals, for nearly all the civilized world knows them.

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OCTOBER SUNSET MAGAZINE.

Gives Fine Pictures of California Life — Finely Illustrated. Gen. MacArthur and other army officers describe the recent military maneuvers in California, each article being profusely illustrated with half-tones, and colored drawings by Edward Cucuel. Interesting articles on

California and Oregon, How Olive Oil is Made, How Almonds Are Grown, and fine descriptions of Plumas and Sutter, two great California counties. 224 pages of articles, western stories, sketches and verses. 10 cents a copy. You can buy Sunset Magazine at all news stands.

Fears for Overdue Steamship.

Havana, Oct. 19.—Anxiety is felt for the safety of the steamship Buenos Ayres, from New York, now nearly three days overdue.

Enrollment at Yale.

New Haven, Oct. 19.—Preliminary figures of the registration of students at Yale university show a present enrollment of 2995.

Broke into His House.

S. Le Quinn of Cavendish, Vt., was robbed of his customary health by invasion of chronic constipation. When Dr. King's New Life Pills broke into his house, his trouble was arrested and now he's entirely cured. They're guaranteed to cure, 25c at Chas. Rogers' drug store.

SELLS FOR TEN CENTS.

The October Number of the Sunset Magazine Now on Sale.

"Mimic War in California" is strikingly described in October Sunset Magazine. Articles by Gen. MacArthur and others. Beautiful colored drawings. Many industrial articles, sketches, stories, etc. 10 cents from all news-dealers.

Saves Two From Death.

"Our little daughter had an almost fatal attack of whooping cough and bronchitis," writes Mrs. W. K. Haviland of Armonk, N. Y., "but, when all other remedies failed, we saved her life with Dr. King's New Discovery. Our niece, who had consumption in an advanced stage, also used this wonderful medicine and today she is perfectly well." Desperate throat and lung diseases yield to Dr. King's New Discovery as to no other medicine on earth. Infallible for coughs and colds. 50c and \$1.00 bottles guaranteed by Chas. Rogers. Trial bottles free.

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